

HOST PLANT RECORDS (FAMILY ASCLEPIADACEAE) FOR *PYRAUSTA INCOLORALIS* GUENÉE (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE)

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Abstract

Ceropegia cumingiana Decne, *Cynanchum leptolepis* (Benth.) Domin, *C. ovalifolium* Wight, *Gymnanthera nitida* R. Br., *Gymnema tricholepis* Schltr., *Heterostemma acuminatum* Decne, *Marsdenia hemiptera* Rchb., *M. rostrata* R. Br., *Marsdenia* sp. undescribed and *Tylophora* sp. undescribed are recorded as host plants for larvae of *Pyrausta incoloralis*.

Introduction

Pyrausta incoloralis is widespread in south-eastern Queensland (records at QDPI and UQIC), and also in Malesia (as defined by van Steenis 1950), Asia and Africa if the synonymy given by Swinhoe (1900) can be still applied. There is little known on its biology, with De Baar (1983) recording *Cynanchum carnosum* (R.Br.) Schltr., *Gomphocarpus fruticosus* (L.) R.Br. and *Secamone elliptica* R.Br., (all Asclepiadaceae), as host plants for this moth in Australia.

Observations

Observations were made on cultivated plants in May 1989 in a glasshouse at St Lucia. As the glasshouse was unsealed, presumably adult moths had entered and oviposited on a range of plants with the resulting larvae being the first indication of activity of the moth. A voucher of *P. incoloralis* (Forster 89606) has been deposited at UQIC and vouchers of the plants at the Queensland Herbarium (BRI). Larvae of *P. incoloralis* feed primarily on young leaves. On pupation the larva web together 2 leaves, usually those of a leaf pair. Pupation to the adult takes between 11 and 14 days.

Host Plant Records

Oviposition, feeding, pupation and adult emergence were recorded on the following plants (voucher numbers are given in brackets).

1. *Ceropegia cumingiana* Decne. Voucher: Liddle [AQ408494].
2. *Cynanchum leptolepis* (Benth.) Domin. Voucher: Forster 3962.
3. *Cynanchum ovalifolium* Wight. Voucher: Forster & Liddle 4090.
4. *Gymnanthera nitida* R. Br. Voucher: not kept.
5. *Gymnema tricholepis* Schltr. Voucher: Forster & Liddle 4233.
6. *Heterostemma acuminatum* Decne. Voucher: Forster & Liddle 4238.
7. *Marsdenia hemiptera* Rchb. Voucher: Bird s.n.
8. *Marsdenia rostrata* R. Br. Voucher: Forster & Orford 2728.
9. *Marsdenia* sp. nov. Voucher: Forster 4567.
10. *Tylophora* sp. nov. Voucher: Forster 3974.

The distribution of these plants in Australia extends from Victoria to north-western Australia. Many of these species occur in far northern Queensland and Malesia (1, 3-6), *M. hemiptera* has been recorded from northern New South Wales to the Kimberley in Western Australia, *Marsdenia* sp. nov. is restricted to Cape York Peninsula and *Tylophora* sp. nov. to the Herberton Range. No feeding was observed on fresh leaf material of *Tylophora benthamii* Tsiang or *Gymnema micradenium* Benth., although the leaves of the latter were used for pupation.

Discussion

P. incoloralis fed on a range of species from diverse genera in two subfamilies of Asclepiadaceae, the Periplocoideae (*Gymnanthera*) and the Asclepiadoideae (remaining genera). As with the wide range of host plants recorded for *Euploea core corinna* (W.S. Macleay), some caution should be exercised in extrapolating these glasshouse records to the field situation (Kitching and Zalucki 1983).

Acknowledgements

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References

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